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Letters To The Editor, The Times
500 Perry Street
PO Box 847
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Dear Sirs:

Once again, "Big Brother" in Washington knows what's good for us!

As an American taxpayer, I've had enough of Big Government's attempt to go after Big Taxes. The taxes I'm talking about are the proposed new taxes on tobacco. The tax bills being considered in Congress would be the largest tax increase proposed in American history. I thinks its time for Americans to say no to Washington's call for more and more taxes.

Consider the following points not discussed in the media or brought to the forefront by Mr. Clinton:

Washington already makes more money from taxing cigarettes than tobacco companies do from selling them. Proposed new taxes would increase that revenue fivefold!

This tax burden will be shouldered by 47 million American adults like me who smoke. The tax increase will not be $ 1.10 per pack. The actual price will rise from about $2.00 per pack to $ 5.00 per pack at the retail level.

The legislation would create 17 new federal bureaucracies....more taxes for bigger government.

98% of cigarettes sold are smoked by those of legal age; only 2% are smoked by minors. The new tax proposals would tax 98% to try to influence 2%.

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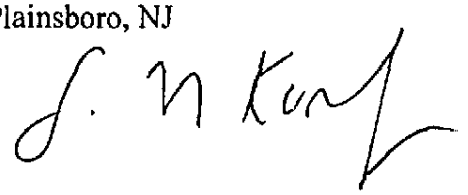
Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzcy0000

The new tax legislation would effect nearly 2 million jobs. The livelihoods of 8 million Americans are tied to tobacco. This includes everyone from growers and manufacturers to industry suppliers, truckers, and retail store clerks. Is our economy prepared to take a negative hit?

For once, let's use some common sense. We don't need Big Government to tax us more, to tell us what to do, or what to buy or not buy. Today, it's smokers. Who's next?

G. N. Kuruc, Jr.
Plainsboro, NJ



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